

Senate Resolution 517

By: Senators Thomas of the 54th and Henson of the 41st

ADOPTED SENATE**A RESOLUTION**

1 Creating a Senate Study Committee on Diabetes and Childhood Obesity in Georgia; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, there is concern over the increasing incidence of diabetes and childhood obesity
4 in Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, over 18 million Americans live with diabetes today, and fully a third of them
6 do not even know they have the disease; and

7 WHEREAS, there are roughly 715,000 people with diabetes living in Georgia alone, a 20
8 percent increase in the last five years; and

9 WHEREAS, thirty percent (214,000) of Georgians do not know they have diabetes, but it
10 could already be causing eye, kidney, and heart damage for many of them; and

11 WHEREAS, Type 2 diabetes is becoming a disease of midlife, rather than developing at an
12 older age, and is even beginning to affect school children; and

13 WHEREAS, in Georgia, the cost of diabetes due to medical care, lost productivity, and
14 premature death is over \$4 billion per year; and

15 WHEREAS, diabetes is very serious, and its complications include heart disease, stroke,
16 blindness, kidney failure, high blood pressure, nerve damage, and amputations; and

17 WHEREAS, encouraging patients to ask their health care professional for an AC1 test can
18 help them better control their diabetes; and

19 WHEREAS, overweight children are at risk for health problems during their youth and into
20 adulthood, and they are more likely to have risk factors associated with cardiovascular

1 disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and Type 2 diabetes than are other
2 children and adolescents; and

3 WHEREAS, Type 2 diabetes, formerly known as "adult-onset diabetes" and now classified
4 as an epidemic in American children, continues to rise in Georgia, and overweight children
5 are also at increased risk for hypertension, asthma, sleep apnea, and low self-esteem; and

6 WHEREAS, the obesity prevalence in the United States among children six to 19 years old
7 more than tripled between 1980 and 2003; and

8 WHEREAS, in Georgia, the prevalence is staggering, with 27 percent of two to five year old
9 children, 33 percent of middle school age children, and 26 percent of high school students
10 overweight or at risk for being overweight, and the severity of overweight children in this
11 state is two times higher than the current national average; and

12 WHEREAS, overweight children and adolescents are more likely to become obese as adults,
13 as shown in one study which found that approximately 80 percent of overweight children
14 between the ages of 10 and 15 were obese adults at age 25; and

15 WHEREAS, many experts agree that obesity in childhood may affect academic performance,
16 with one study suggesting that overweight children have significantly lower math and
17 reading test scores compared to nonoverweight children in kindergarten; and

18 WHEREAS, the medical costs associated with obesity from childhood to adulthood in
19 Georgia is nearly \$2.1 billion per year due to costs associated with diagnostic and treatment
20 services, lost wages, and reduced productivity due to illness, disability, and premature death;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, due to the epidemic of childhood obesity, many experts believe this may be the
23 first generation of children who will not outlive their parents.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created a Senate
25 Study Committee on Diabetes and Childhood Obesity in Georgia to be composed of five
26 members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate
27 shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson
28 shall call all meetings of the committee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
2 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
3 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
4 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
5 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
6 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
7 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
8 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
9 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
10 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
11 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
12 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
13 made on or before December 15, 2007. The committee shall stand abolished on December
14 15, 2007.